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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Ukraine)

SUBJECT Childbirth/
Health and Sanitation facilities in Dneprodzerzhinsk.

DATE DISTR. 3 DEC 53

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. the hospital

was under the jurisdiction of the county (rayon) health depart-
ment, which in turn was subordinate to the oblast health department of
Dnepropetrovsk.

2.

The
hospital was small and served a small community of collective farms.

3.

The
tekhnikum for midwives was a night school and most of the instructors were
doctors from large hospitals nearby. About 30 to 35 students were instructed
in each class. Classes were conducted at night from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM,
five days a week. Most of the students worked during the day in hospitals and
clinics for which they received certain training credits. Every student had
to deliver at least 150 babies before qualifying as a midwife.

4.

5.

Premedication consisted of iodine or alcohol. Anesthesia was local. The Credé
method was used for expression of placenta. Bleeding after expression of after-
birth was controlled by raising the legs of the patient higher than the head and
pressing the main aorta with the fist. The umbilical cord was tied in two places
with cheesecloth, the first tie about one and one-half inches from the navel.

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The babies' eyes were bathed with one percent of Argentum-nitricum (Lapis).

6.

The mother was instructed to wash her breasts with boric acid before every feeding; to bathe herself thoroughly twice a day; to keep the baby in a separate bed; to feed the baby every three hours from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM; to give the baby water in a spoon between feedings; to air the baby daily; to bathe the baby daily; to boil all items used by or in connection with the baby; to avoid work and sexual intercourse for six weeks following birth; and finally, to keep herself, her child and all her surroundings as clean as possible.

7.

About 90 per cent of deliveries occurred in hospitals or clinics. [redacted] there were no maternal deaths, no newborn deaths, no stillbirths and only one or two miscarriages.

8.

Forceps were used when the umbilical cord fell out, when asphyxia was indicated, in cases of eclampsia, when the general condition of the mother was poor, in cases of excessive bleeding, when the afterbirth came loose too early, when the delivery was too prolonged.

9.

[redacted] indications for episiotomy [redacted]

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When a tear in the vagina was indicated, when asphyxia of the baby started and when the vulvar ring was the only obstacle to birth.

10.

[redacted] indications for Caesarian Section [redacted]

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When the baby was in cross-wise position and when the head was too large to pass through the cervix.

11.

The hospital had 25 beds. Its equipment was adequate and of good quality and high standards of cleanliness and sanitation were maintained.

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12.

[redacted] health facilities of Dneprodzerzhinsk [redacted]

The community had two hospitals and two workers' clinics. [redacted] they were equipped to handle any medical situation.

13.

The city did not have a modern sewage disposal system throughout. Some of the waste was picked up by a special fleet of cisterns mounted on horse-drawn wagons. These fleets worked at night, emptying septic tanks and the simple holes in outdoor houses. The central part of the city was served by a modern sewage disposal and water supply system. Water was pumped out of the Dnepr River into big filtering and treatment plants, and from there pumped into storage reservoirs. This network served about 60 per cent of the city.

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